

Jan. 20 1923,
Left Washington D.C. 9.35
P.M. for Austin Tex, en route
to City of Mexico.

Jan. 23. Austin, Tex.
Arrived 6.40 A.M. in snow
storm which I learned began
about 5 A.M. Storm said to
be wide spread, extending
far to southward.

Jan. 24. Austin, Tex.
Met Col. Turner E. Hobby and
left in evening for Laredo.

Jan. 25. Laredo and
en route to Mexico City. Crossed
the border at 8.30. Train stopped
on the bridge for removal of hand
baggage. Mexican customs official
came through and examining my
baggage remarked "Que buenos zapatos tienen".

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Baggage unloaded at Nuevo Laredo where it was ~~hissently~~ examined at custom house and the train did not leave until 10.55. Customs official courteous and my baggage was sealed. Hand baggage had been sealed by paper sticker bearing the word "revisado". Rio Grande carried a moderate volume of water. Freeze night before had congealed water on slipping pavement and snow from recent storm still lay in patches. Mexicans sunning themselves against buildings as sun rose bright and sky clear. As train advanced into Mexico snow soon disappeared and the route was ~~open~~ ^{level} through the generally rolling plain, with ^{barren} mountains rising sharply in places only a few miles away. Plains fairly well overgrown with

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Small mesquites, huisaches, yuccas, low-growing cactuses and bouillba. These general conditions extending to Monterrey which was reached in the evening. This town is nearly incircled by rugged mountains, deeply scored by steep-sided canyons. Prominent from Monterrey is the mountain group known as Cerro de la Silla ^{with} which I had become familiar many years ago.

Jan. 26. En route to City of Mex.

Early in morning we were short distance south of San Luis Potosi and the aspect of the country had undergone a very marked change overnight. The dry, rolling plains bear a

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remarkably heavy growth of vegetation in places. Large cactuses including the nopal de tuna are abundant and often tower over native houses, which may be picturesquely set in a cactus thicket with cactus plants growing close about the house. ^{Fig} Guavas also grow about the houses and in places form veritable forests along with garambullo and ~~the~~ pepper trees "arbol del Peru" of the natives.

I felt exhilarated as I stepped from the train into the sunshine at San Miguel de Allende - a ^{wagon} clear, dry, friendly sunshine unknown in our country except at low elevations in the southwest

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where it spreads north across the Mexican boundary. A many points along the way we were besieged by natives selling oranges, sweet limes, granaditas and many other edibles or inedibles and things too numerous to mention. Arrived City of Mexico 8 P.M.

Nearly gone ~~of~~ are the "coches" of former days. These are replaced by innumerable "camions" that compete seriously with street cars in carrying passengers and trucks used as taxis that carry passengers to points in the City for 1 peso, or more if it is obtainable from those haunts.

Jan 27 to Feb. 10, City
of Mex. Many novel impressions
of changes wrought by time.
Calle 1^a de San Francisco ~~has~~
formerly cobble stone changed to
well pave Calle de Francisco
Madero.

Feb. 10 - 17 Remained in
City of Mexico until latter
date when I left with Valentin
Santiago for Lerma at 3 PM
arriving about 2 hours later.
Lerma has become a place
of less importance, now much
over-shadowed by Toluca only
about 15 minutes away by
cannon. Many canons run
from City of Mexico to Toluca,
considerable difficulty in locating
a place to sleep. Finally lodged
in Mexican bed,

Feb. 17. Jirwa, Mex.

Spent day in tule marshes;
now much choked by water
hyacinths which make canoe
navigation very difficult.

Feb. 18, Jirwa to Acambars.

Day very windy and cold.

Feb. 19 Acambars to
Palzevans. Ice on small pools
of water along the way. At
Palzevans found old Hotel Ibarra
abandoned and a good new
tourist hotel at station - Hotel
"El Logo" it is called. ^{Motor on} ^{Take in PM.}

Feb. 20. ~~Spent day~~
~~long~~ Palzevans to Puyano through
beautiful country.

Feb. 21, Puyano to
La Barea. Largely over nearly
level valley floor.

Huts now used by men largely
of good quality palm leaf, rems

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very broad, but tops much lower than formerly giving them an odd appearance.

Feb. 22 - 25 - at Barro - and on latter date moved by motor boat to Acotlan. Bode goodbye to Sr. Manuel Muñoz the President Municipal who very kindly arranged trip by motor boat for us.

In late afternoon a trip was made to Jarway about 3 leagues from Acotlan along the shore of the lake. While at Jarway the sun set and the few light clouds gave sky and lake a remarkable series of coloring from rosy tints

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deepening gradually through various purple shades as the light faded, the hills bordering the lake also reflected in varying shades of purple, the reflections of hills differing from the reflections of sky as usual under such conditions. Return trip was very pleasant as the lake was restful and pleasing in the gathering shadows, with ~~the~~ ^{several} natural boats under sail off shore, and the temperature was mild and agreeable.

Zocalo or Plaza de la Constitución, in the city of Mexico has undergone a

great change, The beautiful
trees of former years are now
been cut I was told to
permit those holding the
National Palace to see better
to shoot approaching revolutionists.
The vegetation now is reduced
to a few yuccas and small
shrubs and frost-damaged banana
plants, ~~that had started to~~
~~flower~~ These do not produce
fruit here and seemed to bow
their heads in shame at
their ~~the~~ sterility.

Acollan is a town of about
13000 people. The proprietor of
the hotel Flora described
how about 2 years ago the
place was besieged by the
soldiers.

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Mexican women, Those of the poor class still wear skirts of medium length as in the old days, and they move out without their rebozos. Both men and women still have the habit of covering the lower part of the face including the ~~mouth~~ with rebozo or serape as the case may be. It is still the custom for men to wear guaraches while the ^{women} ~~men~~ go barefooted; and the men still have the ~~cut~~ cracks the hardened skin of the heels, and toes spread widely apart. In this region however a form of guarache is now used by some ~~with~~ which tends to hold the toes together.

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Women - particularly younger women of the ~~better~~ ^{higher} ~~clases~~ ^{clases} are many of them bobbed and horn-like locks are carried forward in front of the ears; and skirts are as short as those of their American sisters, but ~~for~~ the average Mexican woman is conservative and few of the poor class are shown except a few in the cities.

Feb. 26, Coctlan to
Trafalgar.

Have just been reading an editorial in El Universal protesting against the application of ~~the~~ ^{the} Art. 130 of the ~~constitution~~ ^{constitution} which ~~suddenly~~ ^{suddenly} enforced ~~upon~~ ^{upon} the closing of parochial schools, nationalization

of churches, and the forwarding of
the exercise of the ministry by
any except natural born Mexicans
and under which some foreigners,
especially Spaniards are being
deported. It would be interesting
to know just what impelled the
Govt to take this step as the law
seems not to have been enforced by
such leaders as Venustiano Carranza,
General Obregon, or Plutarco Elias
Calleja up to the present time. A
new president will be elected in
1928 and this move would seem
to measure the unpopularity of the
present Govt.

In Acotlan a ragged man encountered
a real labourer asked me for work,
saying his wife was sick and his
children without food and he had been
unsuccessful for some time in finding

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a job. He did not ask for money but asked if I could employ him in any way. Is it any wonder such a man would join any revolution that promised relief for his immediate needs? And yet this man after a few days pay would quite likely soon begin to wish to avoid work as his immediate and simple needs were satisfied and or perhaps devote his surplus to drink. In the same town a rather bright appearing young fellow told me he had been in Calif. and Arizona, but did not like it as there was too much hard work, and he found he could get by more easily at home. Work has never become a habit with the average Mexican.

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plain are in cultivation to
such crops as wheat, ^{and} garbanos.
In many fields ~~a~~ scattered growth
of mesquite is left, although
the land is cultivated up to
close to them, giving ^{landscape} ~~such areas~~
an orchard-like appearance.

People. Met a Mexican who
has been employed by S.F. RR.
at Wichita, Kans. for ~~the~~ several
years. He has run as a migrant to
his old home but is on his
way back to Kansas where he
says conditions are better.

Arrived S.L.P. 7.35 PM

Feb. 28 S.L.P. to Tampico.
Left S.L.P. 10¹⁰ A.M. An interesting
trip out to edge of plateau
where first drop comes at

on the city of Mex. the sale of
autos seems to be in the hands of
Americans, sale of hardware in
German hands, sale of clothing in
French hands, sale of ~~clothing~~ groceries
largely in Spanish hands, leaving
to Mexicans only odds and ends.

Black-crowned night heron.
Fifteen or twenty of these birds
pass the day perched in the
tall Eucalyptus trees in the
Alameda in the city of Mexico,
and just at dusk may be
seen winging their way
over the buildings toward
their feeding grounds in
the direction of Lake Texcoco.

~~For~~ Feb. 27. Trappists to
San Juan Potosi.

Left Mex. 7.05 a.m.

Near Trappists parts of the ~~area~~

Mar. 1 - 3 con.

Edwin Falvey, and Harry W. Birdie, who is Sec. of the American Chamber of Commerce and seems anxious to be helpful.

On the 2nd ~~went~~ ^{started}, out at 4:30 PM with Dr. Hudson & Falvey to hunt geese and got stuck in mud in thick before we got out of town. It had been raining hard the night before. By the time we got out of the mud it was so late we gave up try for the day.

On Mar. 3rd we were more successful in getting out, but although I saw some geese at short distances we were unable to kill any.

Rio Verde is situated, thus
from Gardulas there is a
rapid ^{drop} to Las Canoas near
where the Tropical zone is
entered, the country becoming
obviously more humid in
character as shown by the
mainly mesquero vegetation,
From Las Canoas the route
is down the steep escarpment
of the plateau along
Pawasopo Canyon to Pawasopo
plateau and from this
point the descent is gradual
over the rather broad
coastal plain.

Mar. 1-3, Tampico, Tam.
Have met a number of men in
town among others Dr. Hodson,

Mar. 1 - 3 con.

Land & Petroleum Law

Newspapers continue discussion of the so-called "leyes de expropiación y del petróleo," ~~which are~~ these laws said to be accordance with the constitution of December of 1917, recently by the Mexican Congress and promulgated by President Calles are regarded by many as retroactive and confiscatory in their effect. This is denied by Mexican authorities who say they do not confiscate property already acquired, but limit the acquisition ^{new} of ~~additional~~ property, and require foreigners to refer all disputes or claims to Mexican courts instead of invoking the intervention of their respective Govts.